

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 7, and 9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 7 are amended and claims 2, 4, and 8 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments simply rewrite allowable dependent claims in independent form); and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as their invention. The rejection as it pertains to canceled claims 2, 4, and 8 is moot. Independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate features of now canceled claim 2 to clarify how the first and second follower circuits relate to the first and second switches. Claim 1 is also amended to clarify that each follower circuit comprises only one transistor and one resistor. Claim 7 is amended to recite additional elements and their structural relationship to the elements recited in claim 1.

For the aforementioned reasons, Applicants assert that the above amendments obviate the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection of independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 3, 7, and 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nadd (U.S. Patent No. 5,672,992), in view of Pierce (U.S. Patent No. 5,319,252); and rejects claims 1-4 and 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nadd, in view of Ebihara (U.S. Patent No. 6,154,069). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Specifically, Applicants assert that neither Nadd, Pierce, nor Ebihara, individually or in combination, disclose or suggest a charge pump circuit comprising a third resistor; a fourth resistor; and a third diode, wherein the third resistor, the fourth resistor, and the third diode are directly connected to each other by a first connecting point, and the first connecting point is directly connected to a base of the first transistor, as recited in independent claim 1 and shown in Figure 1 of the present invention.

Nadd discloses a buffer 42 with an output node 43 connected to a capacitor 44 as shown in Figure 2 of Nadd. However, Nadd does not disclose a charge pump circuit with any transistors.

Pierce discloses a resistor 223, a transistor 224a, a transistor 224b, and a resistor 225 connected in series, respectively, as shown in Figure 2C of Pierce. However, Pierce does not disclose a charge pump circuit with a third resistor, a fourth resistor, or a third diode.

Ebihara discloses a parallel circuit consisting of a resistor 106 and a capacitor 107 inserted between the emitter of the first transistor 104 and the first power source line 106, and a parallel circuit consisting of a resistor 113 and a capacitor 114 inserted between the emitter of the second transistor 111 and the second power source line, as shown in Figure 12 of Ebihara. However, Ebihara does not disclose a third resistor; a fourth resistor; and a third diode, wherein the third resistor, the fourth resistor, and the third diode are directly connected to each other by a first connecting point, and the first connecting point is directly connected to a base of the first transistor.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that for at least the above reasons, neither Nadd, Pierce, nor Ebihara, individually or in combination, suggest or disclose the subject matter recited in independent claim 1 and its dependent claims.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 1, 3, 7, and 9 depend from claim 1, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter, as well as for the additional features they recite. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejections.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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